

"NOW look what you've gotten us into, Your HIGHness. And what a delightful SMELL you've discovered!"

"Aw, stuff it, Solo. All you smell is **ISSUE 58** of:

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Early March 80

The BRU TUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are reluctantly available at the rate of 10/\$4, 12/\$4 for resubbers. THERE ARE NO GAME OPENINGS.

THIS ISSUE should hpeefully be a short one, at least since I've decided to drop the Guerrier letter that was submitted. SOMEhow I have to break you people of the habit of seeing 20 page issues every 15 days. The only way I can see of doing that is to limit myself now and then, like by promising to only put out one issue in March, not counting this one if you get it in March. I'm typing this late if February, and could send it out shortly if it weren't for the fact that I just sent #57 out a week ago. Future stuff will definitely have to be trimmed down. This time I should have quite a few game pages, since activity there is picking up. 79CK may end shortly, and I will try to get in its wrapup is possible, but Jack Frost has just started ANOTHER 10-day-deadline game and the pace of the adopted 78Tid has quickened at least for now, so while my work may be slowly easing, the amount of material to run for you certainly has not. Also, the Linsey-Gibson 2-man game is coming along and may begin in this issue, plus another outside feature from a new mini-publisher adopting a game may start appearing soon. We'll see.

FEB 23 was the date on which I spotted the first DANDELION of 1980 in our yard. We had ONE 78^o day, and the grass is starting to come back. Sadly, it's been a very dry winter, so the green won't last long. Other surprising events: our Olympic hockey team came through and really stunned everyone with a great win. Terrific. Let's us bury the Olympics for 1980 on a happy note. Another surprise is how dismally Ted Kennedy is doing. The New Hampshire primary is tomorrow, and he is expected to lose, they say. No tears here, of course, but on the other hand, that could well mean that we face another 4 years reborn handwringing by our laughingstock "leader". We need him back about as badly as Canada needs back the same-old-bull that THEY have re-elected for themselves in Treudeau. The only good thing about Treudeau that I can see is that 1. he was only born once, and 2. his wife, or ex-, is quite uninhibited in laying her, uh, cards on the table when she lets herself be photographed at NYC clubs for Playboy. Not your run of the mill poopshoveler so typical of politician's wives, to say the least. Most are just grinning facades with no mind, nor even very much in looks (Rosalynn excepted), and then here comes a raw beaver shot of what's-her-name Trudeau. Nice to have a little change of pace once in a while, sort of a Curtis Gibson of politician's wives. (No insult intended, Curtis).

I've heard from a couple of people that the postal Diplomacy Tournament has started. This is the three game series that Bob Sergeant et. al. are running. A late notice just came in about another big CASH tournament to begin. See inside.

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, MD 21214.

Those of you who pay any attention to such things will notice that the rates quoted for new subscribers has gone up, though not for resubbing. Maybe high rates will lessen demand. I'm embarrassed by the popularity of this thing, and the workload for turning out what I do so far is already more than I'd like. If any of you are tired of all this, please let me know. I'd be glad to trim this mailing list a little. Or a lot.

John's Notes

LATE
NOTICE One publisher has
suggested that the Las Vegas
Tournament announcement is a
HOAX.

Ah, another glorious issue. Or at least another issue. Actually, this one has been getting better as I go along; the best stuff has come in right at the end, making it seem to ME to be getting better, if not to you. There were a couple of long letters from Francois Cuerrier and one Don Wileman that either were too long, pointless, lacking in what the Supreme Court calls "redeeming social value", or just too insulting to run, primarily Wileman's, who compared me to Robert Sacks! Apparently Wileman is some leftist type who received a 'sample' BB as a joke from somebody who knew him; the letter closed with a resounding cheer of "Long live the P.E.T.!", whatever the hell that is. Anyhow, you're spared it.

BILL LAFOSSE reports that the "Edwards" enrolled in his next prospective game is not Brian Edwards of Maryland, but someone else, a real person. So all you'll be facing is ONE Tretick power, not two, in his TORONTO TELEGRAM.

MARK BERCH has wrangled himself the GM job for the big money FTF Dip tourney in Las Vegas announced within, I find. That's the way to go. Get a free LV trip without the chances of moving through the regional gettogethers.

JACK FROST reports that the large group of Chicago FTF gamers were disappointed to see (the stupidity) of moving the Region 4 site from its original Milwaukee clear off to St Paul, MN. No one cares about Chicago, Jack. Two on the east coast, but anyone in the heartland can go to either the Canadian border or the gulf coast.

DID YOU KNOW that both Mars and Jupiter are visible together in the mid-eastern evening sky lately? Venus is the bright thing in the SW. Not often you can see 3 majors with the naked eye. Mars is the pale, slightly orange one of the two eastern ones.

DO YOU HAVE OPENINGS? I've had a couple of inquiries from what I think are new people, but the last Need-A-Game list is quite out of date already, so if you have some, why not send a copy of a sample issue to:

Alan Hooker, 813 S Hillside, Sherman, TX 75090

Rich Dunn, 19420 Normandy Pk Dr, Seattle, WA 98766

NEW PUBLISHERS: A couple are starting, or imminent. First among these is none other than CURTIS GIBSON HIMSELF! Yes, "The Ultsent" is coming to a few select folk. Curtis wrote "It will give the hobby notice that a new zine has started that will tell the truth, fearing no one, and the rascals had better reform and the scoundrels are doomed." Should be something to see!! Another person has written to say he expects to start publishing soon, but I don't know if he wants to let the cat out of the bag yet, so I won't mention who. Suffice it to say, it could be a juicy one.

NUT MAIL continues to pour in. One DWAYNE SHREVE wrote to say he backs "Bernie Oaklyn" Tretick 100%. Then another postcard from everyone's favorite NYC editorializer, JOHN BOARDMAN, who has been writing me every other day lately, this one to say good riddance in response to my recent resignation from the thing he publishes. I hope Tretick is as sick of hearing from us as I am of hearing from John B. Boardman recently wrote to say that he sends all his mail from Curtis Gibson on to Tretick, saying "They deserve each other." I may soon have to start forwarding JB's stuff to Gibson if this keeps up. Let it spice up the letters column of THE ULTSENT.

Speaking of GIBSON, he has written on occasion about how his tenement is heated an hour or two a day, with it often being in the 40s in there. Someone else wrote recently though, and said that his address is on the east side of Manhattan, a pretty posh district! I'm unfamiliar with most of NYC, having only visited parts of Manhattan now and then. Any other comments on what the 100 block of Lexington is like?

A zine published by Jack Frost
 Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin
 In this issue: 1980 C

I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE FRIENDS !

Winter 1901:

AUSTRIA (Parker): builds A VIE; A BUD
 GERMANY (Osuch): builds A BER; A KIE
 ITALY (Howe): builds F NAP; F ROM
 RUSSIA (Sniegowski): builds A SEV; A WAR
 TURKEY (Johnson): builds A ANK

Deadline for Spring, 1902 orders is noon Tuesday, February 19, 1980.
 You voted 6 to 1 for combined seasons, so starting this game year, Winter and Spring seasons will be combined.

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THE CANAL DREGS

February 19, 1980

A zine published by Jack Frost
 Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin
 In this issue: 1980 C

ITALY, RUSSIA MOVE WEST
 GERMANY RETAKES MUNICH

Spring 1902:

AUSTRIA (Parker): A VIE-Gal; A BUD-Rum; A TRI-Bud; A SER sup F Gre;
F GRE sup Italian F Nap-Ion
 ENGLAND (Pilant): A YOR-Nwy; F NTH con A Yor-Nwy; F Lon-ENG
 FRANCE (Petrie): F Bre-MID; A Pic-BUR; A Mun-TYR
 GERMANY (Osuch): A Ber-MUN; A KIE sup A Ber-Mun; A DEN holds; A BEL holds;
 F HOL sup A Bel
 ITALY (Howe): F Nap-ION; F Rom-TYN; F Tun-WES; A Mar-SPA; A Ven-PIE
 RUSSIA (Sniegowski): A WAR sup A Gal; A GAL sup A Sev-Rum; F Swe-NWI;
A STP sup F Swe-Nwy; F Rum-BLA; A SEV-Rum
 TURKEY (Johnson): A BUL-Gre; F AEG sup A Bul-Gre; A CON-Bul; A ANK-Con

No cowards here. Fall 1902 orders are due by noon on Friday, February 29, 1980. A reminder: Winter and spring will be combined this year.

PRESS

?: It's only words and that's all I have to take your heart away.

ITALY-FRANCE: Thanks for Iberia.

SERBIA: The Emperor was recently quoted to have vowed a slow integral campaign against all Turkish slime. (his exact words)

CONSTANTINOPLE-SERBIA: Suck my Dingle Hoffer.

SERBIA-EULGARIA: Stanley, I'm pissed to say the least !!

TRIESTE-VIENNA: I'm still waiting but I'm slowly growing impatient.

?: Austria Dippy is a game of give and take not just take. You must give in order to receive.

?: Damn, Damn, Damn, stupid Russian !

BERLIN-LONDON: The Kaiser wishes to apologize to Prime Minister Pilant for criticizing him for lack of communication. We have only today heard of the terrible accident at Kent Saw Mill where the PM not only had both arms severed at the elbow, but also had his tongue sawed off. Please accept our deepest sympathy.

BERLIN-PARIS: Suicide is painless, or so they say.

ST. PETERSBURG-LONDON: Today Norway, Tomorrow good night, Irene.

ROME: ...and Spain and Portugal make 7.

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THE CANAL DREGS

February 19, 1980

A zine published by Jack Frost

Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin

In this issue: 1979 HE

AUSTRIA FINALLY TAKES SEVASTOPOL BUT JUST HOW SECURE IS MUNICH ?

Spring 1908: RUSSIA retreats A Sil-BER

Fall 1908:

AUSTRIA (Kador): A Boh-VIE; A SIL sup Italian A Mun; A RUM sup A Arm-Sev;
A SER sup A Rum; A Arm-SEV; F BUL sup A Rum

ENGLAND (Howe): F Bel-NTH; F ENG sup F Mid; F NAO sup F Mid; F MID holds;
A BUR-Mun; A RUH sup A Bur-Mun; A PAR-Bur; A GAS sup
A Per-Bur

ITALY (McMahon): A MUN sup A Mar-Bur; A MAR-Bur; A PIE-Mar; F NAF-Mid;
F SPA sup F Naf-Mid; F WES sup F Naf-Mid; A TYR sup A Mun;
A POR sup F Spa

RUSSIA (Michalski): A Sev-Rum, dislodged, retreat to Mos or disband;
A UKR-War; A GAL-War; F Kie-DEN; A Lvn-KIE; F BAL con
A Lvn-Kie; A BER sup English A Bur-Mun

TURKEY (Osuch): A CON holds; A Ank-ARM; F BLA sup Austrian A Arm-Sev

Deadline for Russia's retreat, Winter 1908 adjustments, and Spring 1909
is Friday, February 29, 1980 at noon.

Supply center chart for 1908:

#	NET	COUNTRY	CENTERS
8	+2	AUSTRIA	Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Bul, Gre, Rum, SEV
8	0	ENGLAND	Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nwy, Hol, Bel, Bre, Par
8	0	ITALY	Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, Mar, Mun, Por, Spa
7	0 or +1	RUSSIA	Mos, Stp, Sey , Swe, Den, Kie, War, Ber
3	0	TURKEY	Smy, Ank, Con

PRESS

KIEL: East is east and west is west,
Who to stab and who to trust?
I'll flip a coin to make the test,
Or, what the hell, I'll hold and rust.

LOCKPORT: Well, at least somebody is reading the orders.

79IZ

FEB 22 1980

LOOKS LIKE A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME SHAPING UP

Summer, 1903: Russian A Vie r GAL

FALL, 1903:

AUSTRIA (Guajardo): A SER & A BUD S A Tri; A Tri S A Ser/d/r Alb, Otb;
A VIE S A Bud

ENGLAND (Osuch): F Iri-MID; F ENG S F Iri-Mid; F Nth-DEN; F NWY S GERMAN
A Fin-StP; A Bre-PAR

FRANCE (Fuchs): A Pic-BRE; F Mid S A Pic-Bre/d/rNat, Spa, Por, Wes, Naf,Otb;
A Par S A Pic-Bre/ann.; A GAS S A Pic-Bre;

GERMANY (Howe): F Bel-PiC; A BUR S ENGLISH A Bre-Par; A Kie-MUN; A Mun-SIL;
F BAL-GoB; A Pru-LVN; A Fin-STP

ITALY (Palter): A Pie-TYO; A Ven-TRI; F ADR S A Ven-Tri; F ION-Gre

RUSSIA (Hayner): A StP C (Engl) F Nwy-Naf/imp./d/r Mos, Otb; F GOB S A StP;
A War-PRU; A GAL-Bud; A Rum-Ser/d/r Ukr, Otb; F SEV getting
drunk on poopdeck (H)

TURKEY (McCARTY): A GRE S RUSSIAN A Rum-Ser; F AEG S A Gre; F Bla-RUM;
A BUL S F Bla-Rum

Still seven players in 1903, but 1905 should see a smaller list by the way it looks. Let's see Winter, 1903 and SPRING, 1904 with my mail received at work MONDAY, March 10, 1980. If you request a separation, please send spring orders anyhow, since it will take FOUR such requests received to separate the seasons. Don't count on those others who may well tell you that "SURE, I'll vote for it"! Press follows 1903 in review.

1903:A: Bud Tri Ser Gre VIE	3	Remove 1	
E: Home Nwy Bre DEN PAR	6	Build 1	(I should perhaps add that
F: Par Mar Spa Por BRE	4	1 ann., build 1	your winter builds can be
G: Home Hol Den Bel Swe STP	7	even	conditional on retreats,
I: Home Tun TRI	5	Build 1	and that your spring moves
R: StP Mos War Sev Rum Vie	3	Remove 3	can be conditional on the
T: Home Bul GRE RUM	6	Build 2	builds (removals). Label
	34		one set as "all other cases"!)

Press:

LON-PAR: Are the winter fashions really what they say? Only one way to find out. If we don't make it, please send a catalogue.

LON-PAR: OK, last time we had to guess right. This time it's your turn. Good luck.

PAR-LON: I see Harry's replacement is also a lying SOB. Or sill the Prime Minister finally stand up and be counted?

RAVENNA-SALZBURG: Still waiting for communication of any sort.

RAVENNA-VICHY: Please to note movement of A Pie

RAVENNA-CORINTH: All offers accepted.

MAR-BER: It must be hard to do it 140 times with a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch pecker.

CON-ROM: Maybe you'll believe now.

CON-MOS: Sorry Monty; Turks don't like being bottled up.

LVP: Prime Minister Osuch today announced the beginning of his initial program for social reform, "The Harry S Gonads Memorial Fish Orphanage" located in the north Atlantic ocean. Mr Osuch was quick to point out that no foreign fleets will be allowed access to these waters. Rather, anyone wishing to adopt one of these lost souls will have the fish of their choice transported to their very doorstep. The body of former ambassador Gonads was recently found during the dissection of a sperm whale at an Oxford zoology class.

(More press following)

GRE-ION: Having a great time. I hear Alb is almost as nice.

LON: Eenie, meenie, meinie, moe; dare I be a German foe?

ESSEN-TUNIS: We don't beleive it—you are actually trying to make friends!

ROM: Italian hearts are with the gallant French. Hold on!

MUN-LISBON & BARCELONA: Kaiser Howe sends his kindest regards and advises that any resistance would be foolhardy.

CON: Once upon a fall turn dreary,
While I pondered weak & weary
suddenly there came a knocking
Could that be F Ion blocking?
Hope that Rom will come to see
His best move would be to Tri!

VIE-CON: What! Greece and Serbia too?!

VIE-BER: The Eastern Reich proudly applauds the successes of our German brothers to the north. Get this bear off my back!

VIE-ROM: There are no troops in Tyrolia. There are no Russians in Vienna. There are countless Turks in the Balkans. There's a Turkish fleet in the Aegean, with the possibility of more on the way. There is a new government in Vienna. Let us hope, for both of our sakes, that there is a change of heart in Rome.

VIE-John Wayne & Jan Zizka: Pull the wagons in a circle!

Irrelevant Limerick: A tutor who tooted the flute,
tried to tutor two tooters to toot.
Said the two to the tutor,
"Is it harder to toot,
Or to tutor two tooters to toot"?

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND -- A flurry of activity took place on international money markets here today, as observers noted the changing fortunes of nations in the present continent-wide conflict. !

In view of this past spring's events, investors have initiated a trend that has shot the Reichsmarks of the German Empire beyond the reach of most other competing currencies. The Reich's favorable balance of trade is predicted to send the rocketing mark even higher with the acquisition of new markets in France and Russia.

Other currencies that have advanced with trading are the pound sterling and the Turkish piaster.

The French franc continued to fall, as did the Russian Ruble. Russian credit collapsed in Viennese markets, as a decree by the new government took effect in the war torn city recognizing the Mexican peso as the only legal currency in the province. Panic ensued throughout the city shortly after the announcement of the ban on all other foreign currencies. It is reported that a total of 45 pesos and 87 centavos are now the total assests of the dual monarchy. Oddly enough, the Mexican peso failed to gain on most money markets despite the Austrian announcement.

Financial experts throughout the European community have been informing investors that the metecric rise of the mark will taper off as profit taking will take its toll. Experts advise that for long term investment the pound sterling is a good solid investment with excellent growth potential.

While Italian monetary interests have held their own in the money market, it was noted by one broker that the Italians are frantically trying to buy up pesos.

80D

A FEW CHANGES FROM SPRINGTIME...AND 3 NEUTRALS LEFT

FALL, 1901:

FEB 20 1980

formerly Brutus 11

AUSTRIA (Petrie): F Alb-GRE; A Tri-SER; A Tyo-TRI
ENGLAND (Mitchell): F Nwg-NWY; A Edi-LON; F NTH C A Edi-Lon
FRANCE (Johnson): F Eng-BEL; A BUR S F Eng-Bel; A Mar-SPA
GERMANY (Cummings): F DEN-Swe; A Kie-HOL; A Ruh-MUN
ITALY (Grabar): F Ion-TUN; A ROM S A Ven; A VEN watches curiously (H)
RUSSIA (Chatfield): A GAL-Rum; F SEV & A UKR S A Gal-Rum; F GOB-Swe
TURKEY (Becker): A BUL S F Bla-Rum; F BLA-Rum; A ARM-Sev

Well, there you have it. Let's see Winter, 1901, and SPRING, 1902 here with my mail received at work WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1980. Press follows 1901 in Review.

1901: A: Home SER GRE	5	build 2
E: Home NWY	4	build 1
F: Home BEL SPA	5	build 2
G: Home DEN HOL	5	build 2
I: Home TUN	4	build 1
R: Home	4	even
T: Home BUL	4	build 1
Neutral : Swe Por Rum	<u>3</u>	<u>— —</u>
	34	

Press:

PARIS: France has acted to preserve the Freedom and integrity of the Belgium people

LONDON: His Majesty's government wishes to reassure all his allies, and reaffirm his fervent wish for peace throughout the world.

ANK-ROM: If you would pay your rent, you wouldn't have to move so often.

SEV-UKR: Good God, man, don't leave. Please come back, they'll kill me, they...I...
Oh, mother, here they come.

To Spain: Life stinks, don't it?

CON-MOS: I could have denied you Rumania.

BUDAPEST: The Arch Dupe Ferd extends his apologies to the Italian government. Well..his exact words were "Just kidding".

SMY-CLY: Nate, mate, received your letter by surface mail via Paris, Rome, Munich, St Pete, and Vienna. It was heavily censored. However, I can answer your question: Paint your flagship pink. Your pal, Ottoman.

RUSSIA to CON: Now let me get this straight

Kelley, cont'd

I would move to get the Lilaf/Warmonger/Against The Odds games placed, but orphans disgusted me so much in my own experience with them that I have vowed never to try to help people like that again, so I could care less if they get placed.

Here I leap into the acid bath. This time, I'm for Carter; he's all right, for a Democrat, and I like the way he's been going recently. But then again, since I consider Kennedy a dishonest lout, I don't know. The only other choices for me would be Baker, Bush, or Reagan. However, my past electoral habits are quite bizarre (not in real life, just in class meetings and Student Council meetings, and other school functions). Just the other day there was a vote for Homecoming Queen at our school. I looked at the ballot and saw a bunch of shrews. So I wrote 'Oppose all Running' on it. Our principal, who recognized my distinctive handwriting, laughed. On the Student Council I am fond of, every once in a while, helping the seniors (who have a monopoly, with all their people in ASB offices) turn down every activity request the frosh make. So all things considered, if I were going to be old enough, I would have to settle upon Bill LaFosse as the best man for the job of President. How about 'Bernie Oaklyn'? He would be sure to continue the long-standing, time-honoured Presidential tradition of larceny.

If the hostages are slain, I think napalming Qom would be a grave mistake. That is, only if we stopped there. I suggest turning Teheran, Shiraz, Tabriz, Qom (recent Khomeini joke: "What did they call it when the Ayatollah Khomeini raped a ten-year-old girl?" "Assault with a dead weapon!"), and any other city with a population of 200,000 or more onto a sheet of flaming gasoline. It leaves no fallout, and kills pretty well. Or we could use a little germ warfare on them.

I love to read about the Arab-Israeli wars. Every eight years or so, those arabs decide that they want to eradicate freedom of religion, so they try to pick on one little country, and every time they lose more territory.

Me and some friends of mine are planning (well, tossing around the idea of) burning an Iranian flag. If I lived in Portland, we'd do it.

I got a card from Eric recently re-our mutual interest in the pilot branch of the USAF as a career. Nice guy.

Very funny, Berch. At least one thing was good about your statement: you spelled my name right for once. I do consider homosexuals to be perverts but there's not necessarily anything wrong with perverts of that type if they don't infringe upon the rights of others with it. There are nice homosexuals and nasty ones, and that depends on your definition. And even assuming Mark had some kind of rational point with his allegation (which is absurd), I do not remove my pants for such activity. I think it'd be a great time-saver for you, Mark, if you'd simply drop them to your ankles and join the mainstream of society. No need to remove them totally. What do you mean, 'irrelevant criteria such as sexual preference'? Now you're telling me you would hire a guy (if you were in charge of hiring, as a scenario) who would every day at the hour every hour go out, catch a squirrel, and begin having his way with it? Well, you can if you want, but I won't.

I agree more with you than with Randolph about the GKing problem, but I must admit he's got a point. And anyone with 123 issues and six years under his belt is worth listening to, except for one I can think of.

No need to reply to Mike Mills; everyone already knows where I stand politically.

Keep up the good work!!

((Thanks. However, if you think that I am "very persuasive, ingenious, formidable" as a player, you haven't played with me much! True, I will have 2 and some fraction Calhamer points after this next EVERYTHING, but in view of me being in over a dozen games for 3 years running, that averages to a little less than 1 in 8 wins for the completed ones, or less than average. Currently, 78II and 78HC are the only decent ones I'm playing in, thanks to rock-solid alliances. (At least I think they are solid..))

Response to Kelley, cont'd

It is my opinion that to win, luck is the biggest factor after perseverance, and often an overriding one. Last night's mail brought me $\frac{1}{4}$ CP with a 4-Way draw in 77IC, CLAW & FANG. That was a game where I was the only original player, 13 palyers in it's history, and a 16 center Russia was taken over by a standby at the end. Only the good grace of the new player, Graig Crossley, permitted it to go 4-way (all msurvivors) rather than moving on for a sure win that turn or the third thereafter. It is also an excellent case as to why standbys are a mistake in any game after 1901.

The Arabs don't care what anyone's religion is. It is only an added friction to the presence of aliens in what has been Arab land for a thousand years. Neither the Arabs nor myself are much impressed by writings of how King David once held court there 2 millenia back. It is a simple case of the strong taking from the weak, with good PR and lots of NYC backers to grease the tracks.))

SCOTT MARLEY (Utopia, Ltd & Dip ReView)

12682 Swidler Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Mr. Osuch now says he thought some people were "genuinely interested" in his sexual orientation. If so, a simple statement would have sufficed. But what he said was:

Well, I've said enough on that subject, and since you're thinking it, no I definitely am not queer, nor have I ever had a homosexual encounter. Really! If you don't believe me, ask Frost. I even have a girl friend.

The gentleman doth protest too much, methinks: I, for one, was thinking no such thing, and am offended that he thinks we would all jump to such childish conclusions. The sort of person who is "genuinely interested" in the sex life of complete strangers is not much more mature than the sort of person who is genuinely interested in peeping through bedroom windows.

As to his claim that "any psychologist will tell you" that homosexuals cannot be converted to heterosexuality: it is he who has not done his research. If he had bothered to actually ask a psychologist he might have learned of the success many psychologists have had (most prominently Drs. Master and Johnson) in changing sexual orientation. Not so long ago many psychologists shared Mr. Osuch's misconception (and it is a common one), but so much has been made public in the last two or three years that I doubt if any competent psychologist could possibly be unaware of it. If Mr. Osuch does not have access to (or lacks the background necessary to understand) the journals, he may look at magazines like Psychology Today which summarize recent studies in language that any reasonably intelligent layman can follow. There are also some books out now on the subject, but I suspect that Mr. Osuch will not bother with them for fear that the book seller or librarian will think he's queer.

Just out of my own personal experience, a close friend of mine is a former homosexual converted to heterosexuality, while another is a former heterosexual who is now gay. What's more, I know of several men, otherwise quite straight, who have had a homosexual encounter under the influence of nothing stronger than a few drinks too many and an available partner. Sexual orientation just isn't as unchangeable as Mr. Osuch thinks.

cont'd

Marley, conclusion

I notice nobody has answered my question as to what is wrong with homosexuality, anyway. If you guys can't come up with an answer, then all this talk about keeping them away from us "normal" folk is pretty pointless. If somebody doesn't come up with a reason why they wouldn't want their son to become gay, I shall consider myself the winner of this argument by default.

I never called Mr. Gibson a "rabid pro-Zionist." I called him a crackpot philosopher, which is manifestly true. Let's at least still to the mud that was actually flung: Mr. Gibson apparently prefers to fling mud in his own face and say I threw it.

Mr. Gibson also dismisses the stonings that go on in Israel today as "only a few fanatic orthodox Jews punishing non-orthodox Jews for...violating the religious traditions." Mr. Gibson, religious persecution is still religious persecution, for all your euphemisms, and murder is still murder.

I have no quarrel with Mr. Perlmutter: I agree with most of what he says, although I think expecting the Muslims to guide their lives by the Koran is a bit naive. Few so-called "Christians" obey, or even are familiar with, the teachings and precepts of Christ, and fewer Jews accept everything in the Testament at face value. To expect consistency from the Muslims would be unreasonable.

For all Mr. Perlmutter's arguments in Israel's favor, I can still understand the Palestinians refusal to co-operate. And while I feel the Palestinians are behaving far worse than the Israelis, I think the pro-Israel sentiment so common in this country, and especially in Mr. Gibson's letter, is totally unjustified. Perhaps people need to see things in black and white; one side as Good and the other side as Evil. But when this narrow viewpoint leads people like Mr. Gibson to try to justify murder, when it leads the media--television, in particular--to distort the facts in order to make one side look virtuous, and when it leads the U.S. to throw money away so that we can watch two countries try to hack away at each other (Lord, who knows how quickly the whole thing might have been settled if the U.S. and Russia had kept out of it?)--well, pardon me if I start to feel a bit nauseated.

((It's too small a planet for people to stay out of very much. There is little that does not affect the major powers directly. In addition to which, how long would the Revolutionary War have gone on without the massive French support we received? The only real difference is that we lack the will to support our side, whether it be in Tibet, Angola, Afghanistan, Latin America, Hungary, or East Germany. The other side lacks the liberal gang that perverts American policy/power, and thus they are successful and expanding, while we retreat in defeat. Until we slap down the leftists here, we will do nothing anywhere else in the world.

On the other matter, I will consider myself the winner of the argument by default unless you can come up with a good reason as to why you wouldn't want your son to grow up to be a leper.))

J.M.

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 223

Let me try to make this as clear as I can, because I don't seem to be getting thru to you. All I said was, I am not in favor of arresting street drunks. You changed that into something else, viz, that I wanted to ignore them. I don't want to get into a big discussion of the issue here, but suffice it so say that I am not in favor of ignoring them, and I never said that I was. Then, when I come back and protest that you've altered my position, you have the nerve to say that I'm "waffling".

The exact same situation prevails in our discussion of standards for policemen. In your summary of my position, you say that Berch is against the idea of having standards. I never said that, and I don't believe that. But when I come back and protest that I am very much in favor of the idea of having standards for policemen; you accuse me of "legalistic bullshit", and "splitting hairs".

Don't you see what you're doing? You are taking my positions, transforming them into something that makes a better target, and then firing away. It makes great reading but is very unfair to the writer. If I felt that street drunks should be ignored, that's what I would have said. The irony of all this is that you yourself complained a few issues back, with some justification I might add, that people were criticizing you for taking positions that you hadn't really taken.

Bill Lafosse has responded to my letter and finally given some reasons why homosexuals should not be policemen. First, he says, they might "try something". Yes, they might, and I'm sure that there have been such cases. But heterosexuals are just as capable of abusing their position. We have had several scandals in this area recently about law-enforcement officials who have solicited and sometimes received sexual favors from women. In the most spectacular of these, the chief prosecutor of Arlington County here ~~was~~ lost his job after he admitted soliciting and receiving a sex act from the wife of a criminal defendant (his defense was that he didn't do anything to actually help the defendant afterward). Parade magazine last week had an article on some similar scandals in France concerning rape of women. I don't recall hearing anyone suggesting that heterosexuals be barred from employment, and only use eunuchs be hired. Yes, there are possibilities for abuse, but it cuts both ways. His other reason is that "morale...would likely drop incredibly upon learning of the utilization of homosexuals...the fact that you hate and distrust your homosexual partner and are FORCED to work with him for 8 hours would have ... bearing on your reactions in a stressful situation". We've heard that song before too. For many decades the armed forces maintained segregated units, not allowing blacks into many white units, especially elite units, and many naval ships were not allowed to have blacks on them. The reason for this practice was just the same --- that those white boys (especially southerners) would not trust their lives to their black comrades in the "stressful situation" called combat; that white privates would never obey a black sergeant, etc, etc. We even had such "logic" followed in WWII, until Truman abolished such units, because segregation based on prejudice is wrong. The Korean war showed that the fears were groundless. Such reasoning was also used by southerners to justify segregation in the schools: white teachers would not cooperate with their black counterparts, white kids would just sass their black teachers, etc. In short, Bill says that we must not permit homosexuals to have their chance at these jobs because we must cater to the "hate" felt by those who already have their jobs. That stinks.

Berch cont'd

Next, Bill turns more directly to my letter, more or less rephrasing things with his own punch lines, an interesting rhetorical device. Only he can't seem to do it, so he starts creating things I never said, sets up these strawmen, and proceeds to torch them. Thus, things such as a "freedom of happiness" and "right to satisfaction" are ridiculed by showing what they would (supposedly) lead to. I never made any mention of such rights and principles --- but that doesn't bother Bill. And John Michalskichines in with more of the same, talking about "willingness to grant licence to all" and "let everyone 'do his own thing' without reproach", and that as soon as that happens, people will be having their throats slit for a nickle. I never said, nor do civil libertarians in general say, anything about "right to satisfaction" or "licence for all" --- but that doesn't stop Bill or John does it?? All I ask for is that rules and laws targeted against homosexuals be lifted by society, and Bill and John start charging in with these grotesque exaggerations. And as for "lift our stigma attached to axe murderers, rapists, psychos, etc., etc", I wonder how many readers of BB think this has anything to do with the rights of homosexuals?

One last thing on Bill's letter: "You should see my pictures" says Bill. No thanks. Bill, as you recall, worked as a policeman in Toronto, and as part of this spied on people in washrooms, noting that "after a while you get used to watching some guy blow his load, you even get used to watching some guy blow another guy." Now he offers pictures. I find completely repulsive the idea that such fotos are retained in the policeman's private possession --- let alone that a policeman would then offer to show them to others, which is even worse. Those readers who might think that spying is not all that bad an invasion of privacy should consider this. It's just one step from spying on people in bathrooms to fotos held by policemen. And while I am not implying that Bill would even think of doing such a thing, it is a fact that in this world, fotos of sexual acts have a way of getting used for blackmail. Bill may not think that there is anything wrong with retaining and offering to show such pictures, but I sure as hell do.

I have one other gripe here. Starting in paragraph 4, it is clear that Bill is commenting directly on my letter. In the midst of this, he suddenly jumps to direct quotes, saying --- "freedom of happiness" (quotes are Bill's). While he does not actually label that as a quote from Mark Berch, the context makes it appear that it is. There was no need for quotation marks --- he later refers to a right to satisfaction (his words) but uses no quotes there. In fact, I never said anything about a "freedom of happiness", and I think his use of direct quotes for that phrase is somewhat sleazy.

As for you, John, you are still at square 1. You are willing to consign tens of millions of Americans to second class legal and employment status on the basis of their being a "pervert", and then you bristle when I ask you to say just what you mean by "pervert". You know damn well that that's a vague, emotionally charged word that means different things to different people. A casual wave at the dictionary won't do the job. Mine says that perverts are those who practice sexual perversions, and perversions are defined as sex acts that are not "normal". Real help-

Berch, conclusion

ful, eh? Just what is normal, John? How about masturbation, heterosexual fellatio, and some of the more peculiar positions for sexual intercourse? Some would say they are all "normal", some would say none of them are normal, and some would take intermediate positions. It is the most repulsive form of Big Brotherism for the government to say just what is and is not perverted/normal in sexual practices between two consenting adults, but that's just what you are setting up. And you don't even have the guts to say just what you mean to include in your blanket condemnation of perverts.

Similarly, it won't do to finesse the issue by saying that "discriminatory laws are there for good reason", because the victims are "Wierdos". OK, I give up: What's a wierdo? Is a person who keeps fotos of sexual acts taken in a bathroom a wierdo?

And finally, I can't buy your suggestion that we leave such matters as this to "a seven year old going to a theater." When it comes to sexual matters I will take the council of adults, not children.

I am very sorry that my paragraph on Ruritania appeared in #55-56; I had intended to mark that DNQ, but apparently forgot. Incidentally, your "the main part of an issue" is a gross exaggeration. That essay was less than 20% of the issue. The Behnen material, for instance, was several times the size of that essay.

I think Randolph was correct when he says you misstated his position in BB#54, tho that matter is now cleared up in #55-56. The general tenor of Rnadolph's HRs is to give the players the maximum freedom to maneuver within the confines of the rule ebook, and he accomplishes that goal skillfully. I see no conflict with the rule book in having orders contingent on who is playing the country. The selection of the player for the country actually comes a moment before the fall season, in my view of things, and it is on that selection that the contingency is based.

((I think a stronger case can be made on it simply being a convenience to the players. That is about the only justification I can see for it. I will opt not to discuss the rest, as I feel it is futile to rehash the same old stuff over and over. While much would seem to be annoying and deserving of refutation, I suspect that most readers are sicker of it than I am. I print the bulk of the above letter purely out of sense of fairness, not as any endorsement of its, uh, merits. The readership can opt for a pro-queer or anti-queer posture as they deem appropriate.))

J.M.

Michael Mills, 3457 Makyes Rd, Nedrow, NY, 13120

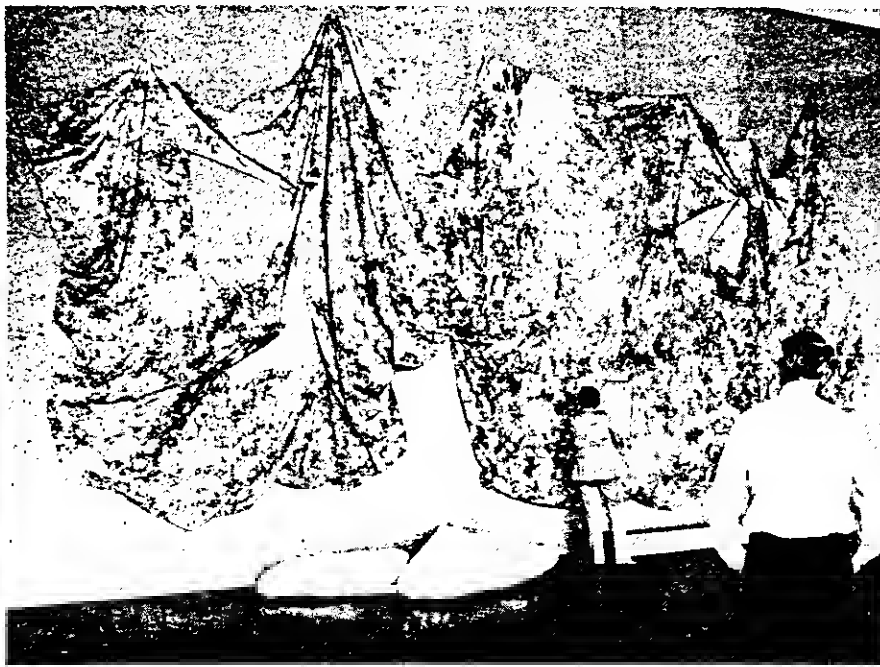
(Emhain Macha)

I'm going to keep this short, as I quite understand what you mean about issue size, etc.

First, I think you are getting the wrong impression of my politics not from any misconception of your own, but from my own omission. I am not a left-wing Demo: my politics don't hold to party lines. I believe that Teddy Boy is just as much of an ass as John C or Ronnie! My focus on the Reps is due to their heavy commitment to the right. Now that Teddy has come out on the left, it is high time that that everyone looked at his record (?) He has absolutely nothing to offer this country except a last name!

cont'd

Your Taxes at Work



Workmen at the Richard B. Russell building in Atlanta, Ga., nearly threw away this \$50,000 wall-hanging paid for by the General Services Administra-

tion. They thought it was a painter's used dropcloth. An understandable mistake.

(submitted by Ernest F. Daniel)

Last year, eight lame-duck congressmen gave themselves a going-away present: \$53,405 worth of stamps drawn from the House postmaster's supply. This is on top of franking privileges that continue for 90 days after a congressman leaves office.

(submitted by Harold R. Sproui)

Every September, bureaucrats spend money frantically to use up their budgets before the fiscal year runs out. White House directives banning these "autumn binges" haven't worked, says Sen. William Cohen (R-Maine). Among the impulse items bought: furniture that then had to go into storage, and an Oriental rug. One serious problem is the sloppily negotiated contracts, involving billions of dollars, that Cohen says are pushed through during the last-minute spending rush.

(submitted by Ira R. Richardson)

Comforting news: The University of Michigan is studying "Psychological Reactions to Uncontrollable Events," with \$65,413 of federal funds.

The National Science Foundation gave the University of Florida \$77,311 to study "Fluctuating Pressures in Tall Buildings."

The University of Arizona got \$103,382 to look into "Breeding, Domestication and Utilization of the Buffalo Gourd."

And Boston University is spending \$28,000 on "Chemical Signals in Cat-fish Social Behavior."

Half of the 913 followers of the Rev. Jim Jones who died in the Jonestown massacre in 1978 were on the California welfare rolls some time during their lives. At the time of the massacre, 109 were still getting welfare payments—51 of them fraudulently. The People's Temple cultists had friends in California forge their signatures on welfare checks and forward the money to Guyana. California officials say the state was cheated out of about \$40,000 by the temple followers.

Rosalynn Carter is spending about \$1 million a year on her own East Wing bureaucratic empire. Her full-time staff numbers 20—twice as large as Betty Ford's. Newest addition is chief of staff, Kit Dobelle, who gets a salary of \$56,000, the same as the President's senior aides. Dobelle's husband happens to be head of Carter's reelection committee. Says Sheila Weidenfeld, who was Mrs. Ford's press secretary, "I think that the whole White House staff size has gotten out of hand, not just the First Lady's." She adds, "What bothers me . . . is that it appears to be more of a campaign staff than a normal First Lady's. I don't like the idea of politicians running for reelection on the taxpayers' money."

(submitted by Elizabeth M. Squires)

Another CETA horror story: In San Francisco, CETA money was used to hire an ex-con with a three-page criminal record as a school security guard. When the man was accused of distributing drugs and trying to recruit school-girls as prostitutes, school authorities just transferred him from school to school, until a principal refused to take him. He was then assigned to school board headquarters. The law eventually caught up with him and he is now serving a three-year term.

Embarrassed school officials say the guard "slipped through" the job screening because his fingerprints were never taken, and right-to-privacy rules prevented a check of his background.

(submitted by Roger Cook)

Federal auditors say the computerized bill-paying system at the General Services Administration is an easy mark for electronic robbery. To test the security of the system, the auditors secretly fed the computer a fake purchase order from a phony company. Then they billed GSA \$95,256 for the nonexistent purchase and received the money almost immediately, less a discount for prompt payment. The watchdogs say that a couple of hundred federal workers around the country have access to the computer and could pull the same trick.

This business about Gibson is very interesting. The way I look at it, the fundamental question it raises is: What are the rights of individuals in the Diplomacy community?

The issues, as far as I've been able to glean, concern Gibson's comments about certain people, particularly Konrad Baumeister, and Gibson's inclination to contact people playing in games in which he himself is not a player. Konrad, understandably, finds the former practice intolerable and Bruce Linsey (Voice of Doom) finds the latter practice offensive enough to threaten to cut off Gibson's sub.

I believe Gibson and all other individuals in the hobby have an absolute right to write what they please to whom they please. A certain amount of irresponsibility is to be expected as the price paid for the most robust and free-wheeling debate.

What are the remedies when the irresponsibility gets out of hand? That's the problem the general media face all the time. I feel that Diplomacy publishers would do well to apply the same guidelines as have been developed in the United States.

The basic protection individuals have against defamation by another individual or publication is the libel action. It's clear to me that Gibson may very well have libeled Baumeister. Konrad may want to retain legal counsel to think about legal remedies. But it's not that simple.

In the last thirty years, the courts in the United States have been developing a concept of public figures vs. private figures. The idea is that people who thrust themselves into the public spotlight have to expect a certain amount of scrutiny into their lives and a certain amount of criticism. By contrast, people who choose to remain anonymous have a right to expect more consideration for their privacy. This contrast is critical in libel law because the courts want to encourage the most open and candid examination of public issues and, to that end, have made the libel action very difficult for public figures.

As it stands, all a private person has to do to collect for libel is to prove that a publication, for instance, published some untruths which defamed him. Public figures, on the other hand, have the burden of proving malice. That is, they must not only show that untruths were published, but that the editor or author published the material knowing it was false or recklessly disregarded the possibility that it was false. The logic, of course, is that very little would be published if the editor had to be persuaded that everything he put out was literally the truth. The press would be paralyzed.

I think the analogy works in the Diplomacy community. Konrad and all the other publishers are "public figures" in the context of the hobby. As such, they can expect criticism. Even unjustified and brutal criticism. Just as an actor or novelist puts his skills before the court of opinion, and has no right to expect restrained criticism, a Diplomacy publisher who thrusts his personality into the vortex of hobby controversies must anticipate unrestrained fury, on occasion, from thankfully rare individuals like Gibson.

As for Gibson's other proclivity ("interference" in others' games), I believe that's fine, too. To suggest that such action is somehow not tolerable is to suggest that players cannot take care of themselves. It makes precious little sense to try to discourage this sort of action by threats. Better to try to reproduce the letters for all to see. I agree with you that most players are sophisticated enough to deal appropriately with such messages. True, some players may be cajoled. But that's okay, too. It's not a gamemaster's job to protect his subscribers or players from the cold, cruel world.

2/25/80

BRUX LINSEY (Voice of Doom)

71 Hudson Terrace Apts, Newburgh, NY 12550

This is mostly an open letter to Curt Gibson. I see I owe him a humble apology, and therefore I am truly sorry to Curt for all the trouble I caused him. I now confess that it was wrong of me to join the anti-Gib Society, but my vicious German Shepard and my Nazi upbringing steered me in the wrong direction. Yes, for the first time I must make public the fact that indeed, I am a Nazi! Why else would anyone even consider listening to those rabid haters of true blues like Baumeister, Bunke, Davis, Rowland, Sergeant, Walker, and others? My mistake was in assuming that four or five pillars of the Diplomacy hobby would conspire to tell the truth. Well, from now on things are going to be different! You, Baumeister! You said in your letter to Voice of Doom that you hope I keep up the good work in publishing! You must PROVE that statement or you are forever banned from the pages of VOD! You, Sergeant! You ordinary, dumb, naive guy who is so gullable as to allow the B&B clique to mentally manipulate you when you run your games! You better not let Konrad play any more! Kelley! You dare to kick an innocent, law-abiding unselfish true blue out of The Beholder? I heartily condemn you! You, Dick Martin! Don't you know that any game in which a true blue does poorly should be declared irregular? Rod! Stop that vicious and obnoxious campaign to make Gib look like a crackpot! Or I will cut off your fingers, not to mention your sub! I hereby admit that I secretly joined the anti-Gib Society eighteen months ago, when I swore in blood never to allow an honest man to appear to have respectability. I now renounce my membership and am burning my card. There's no excuse for persecuting an innocent, helpful, nice old geezer who is just trying to save poor babies from the evils of Nazism and the malicious backstabs of rascals! I really don't know what may have possessed me to join the kill-Gib crusade. Must be my Marxist tendencies. I should have listened to the REAL people in this hobby - like Craig Reges. And from now on, I am going to see the light of truth and justice. I am never going to lie to anybody in a Diplomacy game! After all, Dip is a measure of character and tru-bluity. Us villians (which I was formerly) have no right to win a game and then expect to be able to do it again! And I'm warning you rascals - the next one of you who dares to defend the K.B. crowd or any of the German devils is going to pay for it by being a Jew in your next incarnation (at least my astrology chart and biorhythm says that). Well, this is one person who can admit a mistake. I hereby pledge never to go astray of the morals that make men strong. I hereby quit my endless character assassination of an innocent toothless old ~~fat~~ man. I am now a true-blue, too. And anybody who wants to outdo me in a Dip game is just going to have to face the consequences later in this life or another. Bastards! Imagine those cowardly Bunke-types playing Italy and attacking Austria with Russian and Turkish help! How could I have been so blind to evil? How could I have lived with myself for c. 25 years? I've been a victim of the Linsey mentality, that's how.

BILL BECKER

810 Turwill Lane, L-Ann Arbor, MI 49007

I'd like to respond to Curt Gibson's defense of the Kelly-Verheiden alliance. BB 52-3 was the first I had heard of this, but by looking into back issues of various zines I have, I confirmed for myself that they ally regularly. They are used as standbys in a great number of games. As a player, you should be aware that when they are inserted into your game as standbys, the whole alliance structure will probably change. I found the information that they do ally very helpful in saving a position where I had relied on the former French player to help me control Mid. If I hadn't attacked Kelly on the first move he controlled the French, he and Verheiden would have probably succeeded in regaining the stalemate line.

They are not wrong in allying with each other, but if enough of us are aware of their alliance, it will not meet with the success rate it now enjoys. We as dippy players have probably been a great contributing factor to their allying so consistently. When a standby enters your game, do you write the standby? It has got to be hard to step into a position in 1905 and know what has happened in that game. You should fill him in even if it means admitting that you are continuing hostilities and diplomacy won't change it.

continued

preliminary announcement

\$25,000 National Diplomacy Championship

August 22-24, 1980
Silver Shamrock Casino
Las Vegas Nevada

LATE
ANNOUNCEMENT
↘

Becker, conclusion

As for the four qualities that are important to an alliance—loyalty, competence & cooperation, reliability & persistence, and sharing gains—that is only your opinion, Curt. The fact that you admit only 10% of us have two of these qualities means the other 90% of us are using other criteria. I admit to the occasional use of humor, psychology, guilt, hate mail, slurs, and outright lies in my Diplomacy. And I admit to being taken in by others guile. The game allows all types of tactics and subtiles. You will never convince me that your criteria for playing the game are better than mine, nor that mine are better than anyone elses.

Cross game alliances would be the way to go for the players who select their alliances by your criteria. Their success rate would be phenomenal as long as their opponents were not aware that they were starting out the game facing a true blue coalition of 6 or 9 units. True blue will work as long as the true blues can screen their true intentions from their opponents.

Diplomacy is a power game, an ego game. Play it as you like, have fun, but don't dictate fun to me. If I may have a last word in defense. I am not a true killer as many of my positions will attest, 790K is a freak. If I get knifed all over the place, I'll dry up and not write another letter.

Seven finalists will compete for \$25,000 cash and the title of National Diplomacy Champion at the Silver Shamrock this coming August. Win or lose, each finalist will receive an all expense trip to Las Vegas (including delux accomodations at the Silver Shamrock) to compete in the finals. You could be one of these seven finalists—read on:

The championship game will be comprised of six regional champions (plus one at-large candidate), who will qualify by winning regional tournaments. Regional tournaments will be held at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, *St Paul*, New York and Virginia Beach. The at-large slot (region 7) will be awarded by a random drawing of all eligible candidates. Eligibility for region 7 is provided to any person who resides farther than 175 miles from one of the six regional tournaments

The National Championship Game, itself, will be conducted in a new and unusual manner:

- (1.) Each finalist will be housed in a delux suite at the Silver Shamrock. He may elect to have one other person with him as an advisor.
 - (2.) All diplomacy will be conducted with the other finalists via the house phones.
 - (3.) Moves will be entered via a HP-80 computer terminal in his room and all adjudications will be received via it.
 - (4.) The game will be played until the bitter end; an 18 supply center victory criteria, or a fully agreed draw.
 - (5.) In the event of a draw, the \$25,000 prize money will be distributed equally to the cowninners. Draws involving more than three players are not allowed.
 - (6.) The Silver Shamrock will conduct paramutual wagering on this event and Nevada State Gaming Laws, where applicable, will supercede any provisions of the above.
 - (7.) Coverage by ABC (Wide World of Sports) is anticipated.
- Participation in the regional tournaments will be covered by the following rules:
- (a.) Regional championships are open to all.
 - (b.) An entry fee, not to exceed \$25.00, may be charged by the regional coordinator.
 - (c.) Each regional will consist of at least three rounds of face-to-face play. The methods of scoring will be at the discretion of the regional coordinator and may vary from region to region.
 - (d.) With the exception of region 7 (the at-large region) there is no limit on the number of regions you may compete in—but you may win in only one.
 - (e.) To be eligible in region 7, you must live further than 175 miles from one of the other six regional tourneys—and you must not have competed in one of them.
 - (f.) No play will be involved in region 7. The region 7 finalist will be determined by a random draw of all the eligible entrants.

For participation, please apply through a regional coordinator—not through Vegas Promotions Unlimited or through the Silver Shamrock.

Canadians ARE eligible to compete.

Region 1, San Francisco: Tim Haffey, 5933 Hilton St., Oakland CA 94605
Region 2, Los Angeles: Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, CA 91107
Region 3, Houston: John Vielmann, 6010 Elm, Houston TX 77031
Region 4, *St Paul*: Charles Brink, 938 *Sterling Ave*, *St Paul MN 55119*
Region 5, New York: Kathy Byrne, 42-34 Saul St., Flushing, NY 11356
Region 6, Virginia Beach: Bob Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320
Region 7, At-Large Mike Hartman, 15515 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

VEGAS PROMOTIONS UNLIMITED

298000 Wilshire Blvd.

Los Angeles, California

PLEASE STANDY BY

Ah, at last a subject that I can get my teeth into! For as long as I can remember (which is about the time of my first postal game and a standby came in and screwed up the game), I have been anti-standbys.

Are they needed? Most will immediately respond with a yes.

Why? Because they help maintain the game balance.

Hogwash!!!

When a standby enters a game, one of two things happen. One, the standby does little more than if the units had remained in civil disorder. Or, which is by far more often the case, you've got a brand new game and you'd better treat the entire game as brand new. How many standbys do you think go back and look at the earlier game results? If you think any, then you're a dreamer. No, they look at the current position and make all the decisions from there without any regard for what's gone on in the past. Try to convince the standby that the war that is between him and you is a "phony war". Lots of luck! Try to convince him that Belgium was to be his only until Fall 1905. Dream on! The minute a standby steps in, EVERYTHING that transpired in the past is for naught. How can anyone believe that that promotes play balance? No, I fail to see the love affair that the North American hobby has for the standby.

Do I have a better way? C'mon, I'm just an agitator. I do believe that the games would continue, possibly in a different manner; one that would require new skills.

Let's look at some basic game situations and see how the no-standby rule would affect you:

1. The Strong Alliance- Player A NMRs. As the other half of the alliance, you have a couple of options. One, since his supply centers are more than likely exposed to you, you will either try to protect them until he returns (assuming he might), or try to take the majority of them for yourself. The other option at your disposal is to send the moves you want for him to make to him and have him sign them and mail them to the GM. I prefer either of these options to having an unknown entity come in as my new "ally?".
2. The Four Center NMR. This is probably the most common. As the attacking power(s), this will probably increase your attack time on that country by a year or two. It is up to the other countries to band together all that much quicker in an attempt to stop you. But if you are that close to eliminating a country, the other powers deserve what they get if they haven't already banded together to meet you head on.
3. The Early Game NMR. In my opinion, this is the only time that I would ever consider player replacements. After Winter, 1901, never. With an S01 NMR I would not be opposed to the GM using general orders and asking for a standby; in F01, no movement and a standby called for. After that...nothing.

Granted, the non-usage of standbys would only work well in a reliable zine that comes out on time, keeping player interest. But I'll tell you what: I have nothing against winning a game because of the fact that I was the only player willing to complete the game. When I sign up for a game, I agree to compete against six other players in a head-to-head conflict where the majority of those who start out will lose. Adding new wrinkles doesn't seem to me as if it's going to improve the odds.

I suppose that I've incited some people to riot with my sacreligious disregard for the standby, but before you take to the streets, ask yourself: what has a standby done to me? (Notice that I said TO me. Rarely have I seen a standby do anything FOR me.)

((This article really hit the nail on the head with me. ??IC is a classic example for me, the sole original player, and it has just ended after going through 13 players. I am so much in agreement with what Jerry has pointed out here that no standbys will be used in any future games run here. I used to think that one would be needed for a large power at the end as well as 1901, but IC showed me otherwise. A 14 center Russia went to a standby who stabbed me, the good ally, and made it to 16, then dropped himself. Only a miracle brought Graig Crossley to take 16 and vote FOR a 4way survivor draw. (I doubt I would have turned down a sure win.) But why have SBs at all?)) J.M.